

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04704 01 OF 02 251524Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 MCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-13
/065 W

-----041647 251537Z /42

O 251300Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2481

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 JIDDA 4704

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SA, YE, YS

SUBJECT: SAG VIEWS ON ASSASSINATION OF GHASHMI AND SITUATION IN
NORTH YEMEN

REF: (A) STATE 161678 (B) STATE 161679 (C) STATE 161681
(D) SANA 3064

SUMMARY: SAG INTELLIGENCE CHIEF PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL,
SPEAKING EXPLICITLY IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT,
SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER
TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF NORTH YEMEN
FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT GHASHMI. TURKI
REQUESTED AMBASSADOR WEST TO ASK WASHINGTON FOR ASSURANCES
OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR SAUDI RESPONSE TO GHASHMI'S MURDER.
TURKI DID NOT RPT NOT SAY WHAT REACTION SAUDI ARABIA WAS
CONTEMPLATING. END SUMMARY

1. SAG INTELLIGENCE CHIEF PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL AND
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL AZIZ THUNAYYAN MET THIS
MORNING (JUNE 25, 1030 LOCAL) WITH AMBASSADOR WEST, AMB-
ASSADOR TWINAM AND POLITICAL OFFICER JESSE LEWIS, WHO WAS
NOTETAKER. (TURKI AND THUNAYYAN ALSO HELD SEPERATE MEETINGS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 04704 01 OF 02 251524Z

WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF IRAN, BRITAIN AND FRANCE.) TURKI
SAID THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS MAJESTY'S
GOVERNMENT ON THE SITUATION IN NORTH YEMEN AFTER THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT GHASHMI AND THE IMPLICATION
OF SOUTH YEMEN IN THE ACT.

2. TURKI SAID IT IS NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT THE ASSASSINATION

INTRODUCED A NEW DIMENSION IN THE LEVEL OF STATE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND IS ENOUGH TO RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF A COUNTRY THAT DOES SO. WHAT CONCERNS HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT MOST NOW, TURKI SAID, IS THE WELFARE OF NORTH YEMEN. HIS MAJESTY WISHED TO EXPRESS HIS DEPP CONCERN ABOUT THE SECURITY OF NORTH YEMEN.

3. SAUDI ARABIA WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT NOTHING ADVERSE WILL HAPPEN IN NORTH YEMEN AS A RESULT OF THE ASSASSINATION, TURKI SAID THAT SAG WOULD LIKE THE USG TO ASSURE SAUDI ARABIA THAT THE UNTTED STATES WILL SUPPORT ANY ACTIONS THAT MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE YAR. HE REPEATED THAT THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF SAUDI ARABIA WAS THE INTEGRITY OF THE YAR AND THAT "WE INTEND TO UNDERTAKE WHATEVER IS REQUIRED".

4. AMBASSADOR WEST THANKED PRINCE TURKI FOR HIS COMMENTS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD RELAY THEM TO WASHINGTON. THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED BREIFLY THE PURPOSE OF THE TWINAM MISSION AND SAID THAT AMBASSADOR TWINAM HAD ARRIVED IN JIDDA LAST NIGHT WITHOUT KNOWING OF THE ASSASSINATION. THE AMBASSADOR MADE POINTS PER PARA 3 REF A.

5. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD PRINCE TURKI THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD SENT A MESSAGE (REF C) TO FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAJ EXPRESS-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 04704 01 OF 02 251524Z

ING HIS SHOCK AND CONDOLENCES AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR NORTH YEMEN. (WE PASSED TEXT OF MESSAGE TO TURKI.)

6. AMBASSADOR ASKED PRINCE TURKI IF HE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON SOUTH YEMEN, SPECIFICALLY ON INVOLVEMENT OF PDRY. PRINCE TURKI REPLIED THAT PDRY DID NOT TRY TO HIDE THEIR PART IN THE ASSASSINATION. HE SAID THAT IT IS A FACT THAT THERE WAS COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GHASHMI AND RUBAYI ALI ON FRIDAY AND AGAIN ON SATURDAY MORNING. IN BOTH TELEPHONE CALLS RUBAYI ALI DISCUSSED PDRY'S DESIRE TO REPATRIATE 20 PARATROOPERS THAT HAD ACCOMPANIED YAR PARATROOP COMMANDER ABD AL-ALIM TO PDRY. TURKI SAID THAT DURING THE SECOND CALL RUBAYI ALI SAID SPECIAL PDRY AIRCRAFT WOULD ARRIVE IN SANA WITH 20 OF THE PARATROOPERS. THE PLANE ARRIVED AT 7:00 AM AT SANA AIRPORT. TURKI SAID THAT THE PARATROOPERS WERE NOT RPT NOT ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT BUT THAT THERE WAS A SPECIAL MESSENGER WHO SAID HE WANTED TO SEE PRESIDENT GHASHMI. HE WAS TAKEN TO GHASHMI'S OFFICE. THE MESSENGER OPENED A BREIFCASE, WAS IMMEDIATELY KILLED AND PRESIDENT GHASHMI WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. THE FORCE OF THE BLAST DESTROYED HIS LUNGS AND OTHER PARTS OF HIS ANATOMY. TURKI SAID THAT THE PILOT OF THE PLANE, A PDRY DC-3, WAS QUES-

TIONED. TURKI SAID THAT THE PILOT SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE THE GROUP TO SANA BUT BEFORE TAKE-OFF THE OFFICE DIRECTOR OF PDRY'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR CAME TO THE

AIRPORT AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO TAKE A SPECIAL PASSENGER TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT GHASHMI. THE PILOT HAD A LIST OF THE 20 PARATROOPERS.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04704 02 OF 02 251528Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 MCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-13
/065 W

-----041652 251537Z /42

O 251300Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2482

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 JIDDA 4704

7. AMBASSADOR WEST SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS ILLOGICAL THAT ANY COUNTRY WOULD SET UP AN ASSASSINATION SO OPENLY WITHOUT SOME FOLLOW-UP ACTION. PRINCE TURKI AGREED THAT IT WAS ILLOGICAL AND AGREED THAT THERE COULD BE FOLLOW-UP ACTION; HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IT COULD BE REVENGE FOR PRESIDENT HAMDI.

8. AMBASSADOR WEST INQUIRED WHETHER PRINCE TURKI FELT THE ASSASSINATION WAS THE RESULT OF PDRY INTERNAL POLITICS IN WHICH ONE FACTION WAS TRYING TO DISCREDIT THE OTHER. PRINCE TURKI SAID HE COULD NOT RULE THAT OUT BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

9. TWINAM SAID THAT PRINCE TURKI'S REMARKS WERE HELPFUL AND POINTED OUT THAT HIS MISSION TO ADEN WAS TO HAVE BEEN STRICTLY EXPLORATORY AND NON-COMMITTAL.

10. TWINAM NOTED THAT THE BASIC US POLICY TOWARD THE YAR IS TO ENCOURAGE STABILITY AND INTEGRITY IN COOPERATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA TAKING LEADING ROLE AND U.S. FACILITATING YAR-SAG COOP-

ERATION AS APPROPRIATE .

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 04704 02 OF 02 251528Z

11. PRINCE TURKI SAID THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING THE SAME POINTS WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF IRAN, BRITAIN AND FRANCE, WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE GULF, AND WITH EGYPT, SYRIAN SUDAN, SOMALIA AND JORDAN, AND THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD ALSO BE MAKING CONTACTS WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE, THE MUSLIM CONGRESS AND THE UNITED NATIONS.

12. PRINCE TURKI SAID THAT ANY US STATEMENT WOULD BE LIKE A "GUIDING LIGHT" TO SAG ANTI-TERRORIST EFFORTS. TWINAM ASKED IF ANY STATES BESIDES YAR HAD BROKEN RELATIONS WITH PDRY IN THE WAKE OF THE ASSASSINATION. PRINCE TURKI SAID NONE HAD YET DONE SO TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. AS FOR SAG, ITS REACTION SO FAR WAS ONE OF SHOCK. "WE ARE MAINLY CONCERNED NOW WITH THE SAFETY AND INTEGRITY OF NORTH YEMEN RATHER THAN WITH WHAT STEPS TO TAKE--IF ANY-- WITH REGARD TO SOUTH YEMEN."
WEST

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA04704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-0193
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780622/aaaaathi.tel
Line Count: 195
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4e311782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 161678, 78 STATE 161679, 78 STATE 161681, 78 SANA 3064
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2217082
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG VIEWS ON ASSASSINATION OF GHASHMI AND SITUATION IN NORTH YEMEN
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, SA, YE, YS, (AL-GHASHMI, AHMAD)
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e311782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014